



A STORY OF PARTNERSHIP  
OF UNYIELDING  
PASSION FOR BETTER  
COMMUNITIES.

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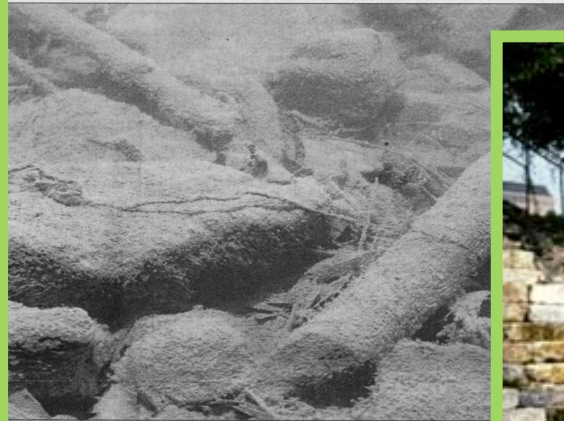
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5 MILE CREEK



4-9-02

## 'Creosote Creek'



NEWS STAFF

Creek, which in places shows no signs of life. But state environmental officials are preparing today, requiring that the stream be cleaned up to the level that it is habitable by fish and

## polluted Five Mile



asking its board to remove the streams still listed under the "and industry" classification, waters to be so polluted they are able for aquatic life or recreation.

Village Creek is also proposed to be upgraded to a slightly looser, "limited fishery." A part of Valley Creek proposed for a change to "fish life."

If the Environmental Management Commission approves the change, Five Mile Creek's status today, the Department of Environmental Management would change the permit for three primary polluters on the Sloss Industries, ABC Coke, and County's wastewater plants.

ABC Coke is concerned that change would cost \$6 million to remove cyanide out of its discharges.

► See CREEK

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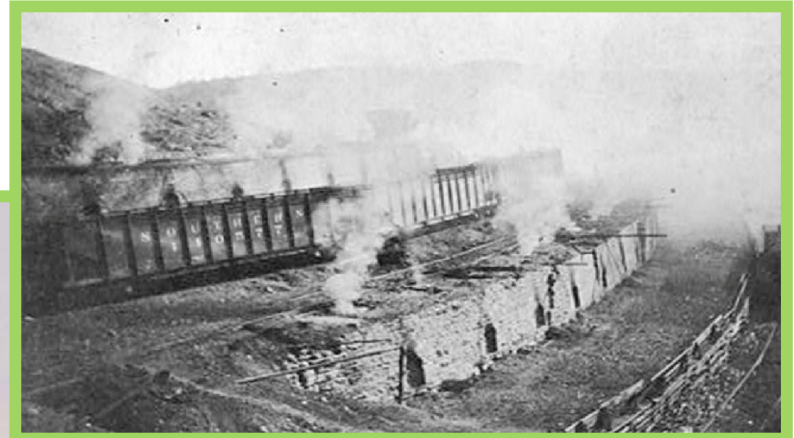
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# 5 MILE CREEK



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**2008 EPA  
Phoenix Award  
Winner For  
Successful  
Brownfield  
Redevelopment**

**Over Twenty  
Million of new  
investment for  
Brownfield  
Cleanups, Parks,  
Greenways,  
Flood Mitigation  
Projects**

**Community Revitalization Occurring, New  
Business Interests, a New Sense of  
Community Pride**





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# 5 MILE CREEK



NEWS STAFF/PHILIP BARR

Wendy Allen, executive director of the Black Warrior-Cahaba Rivers Land Trust, looks for snails under rocks on a recent visit to Five Mile Creek in Tarrant where a new park is being built.

## In upstream effort, cities unite for picturesque, protective plan

By KATHERINE BOUMA  
News staff writer

No question about it, Five Mile Creek has a bad reputation. For decades, local residents have called it Creosote Creek for the stinky, chemical smell that rises from it. State inspectors have found it littered with dead fish and crayfish near the discharge pipe of one of the creek's chronic polluters. All in all, it's not a pretty picture.

But it could be, argue conservationists and civic leaders up and down the creek. They've come up with a plan to turn the stream with a reputation as little more than a pollution pit into a community amenity.

In an alliance conservationists say is unique in Alabama, Jefferson County and all the cities on Five Mile Creek have signed a memorandum of agreement to protect the stream by creating a greenway along its banks, buffering it from de-

velopment to come.

"Thirty years from now I think we're going to look back and say, 'Wow,' because 30 years from now I think north Jefferson County is going to look a lot different," said Wendy Allen, executive director of the Black Warrior-Cahaba Rivers Land Trust.

Planners say that when Corridor X is completed in 2006 and the Northern

► See Creek, Page 10A

35¢ ♦ 50¢ outside metro area

## Land deal to guard waterway

Land trust wants 588 acres on Five Mile Creek

By KATHERINE BOUMA  
News staff writer

Nearly 600 acres along Five Mile Creek will be used to protect miles of the beleaguered waterway under a plan informally agreed upon Wednesday.

The Birmingham Water Works Board and a Jefferson County land preserve group, the Black Warrior-Cahaba Rivers Land Trust, said they intend for the purchase price to be set by an independent appraiser.

When the land was last appraised in 1990, it was worth about \$1 million, said Randy Chafin, assistant general manager of the Water Works.

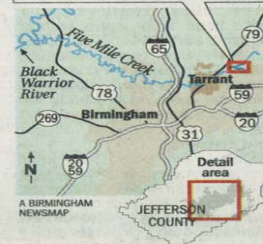
Final approval by boards of both organizations is expected following the appraisal.

"We've had a number of offers to buy this piece of property, a number of offers to clear-cut this piece of property, a number of offers to develop this piece of property," said Miles Creel, chairman of the water board's real estate committee. "I'm so glad the water board had the courage and insight to keep this piece of property and preserve it."

The Water Works has owned the land since 1886, when the city of Birmingham first laid

### Five Mile Creek

Setting aside 588 acres of land would protect nearly five miles of the polluted creek.



plans to draw drinking water from Five Mile Creek. The land has been preserved and is a pristine forest of primarily hardwoods, officials said.

"We felt like this piece of land

► See Land, Page 2A

### INSIDE

► Part of Turkey Creek becomes nature preserve / 3B

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# 5 MILE CREEK



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# 5MILECREEK

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PRESERVATION  
MAINTENANCE MODELS  
GENERAL PETS PRIORITIZATION  
LEADERSHIP PARTNERSHIPS REGIONAL FUNDING  
SOCIAL FOOD FUNCTION ENVIRONMENT  
CHILDREN HEALTH COMMUNICATION  
CHALLENGES DESTINATIONS PROGRAMMING ECONOMIC  
MOMENTUM INNOVATION  
INFRASTRUCTURE SIGNAGE  
CONNECTIONS INCLUSION CONTEXT  
TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES  
SAFETY EDUCATION HISTORY  
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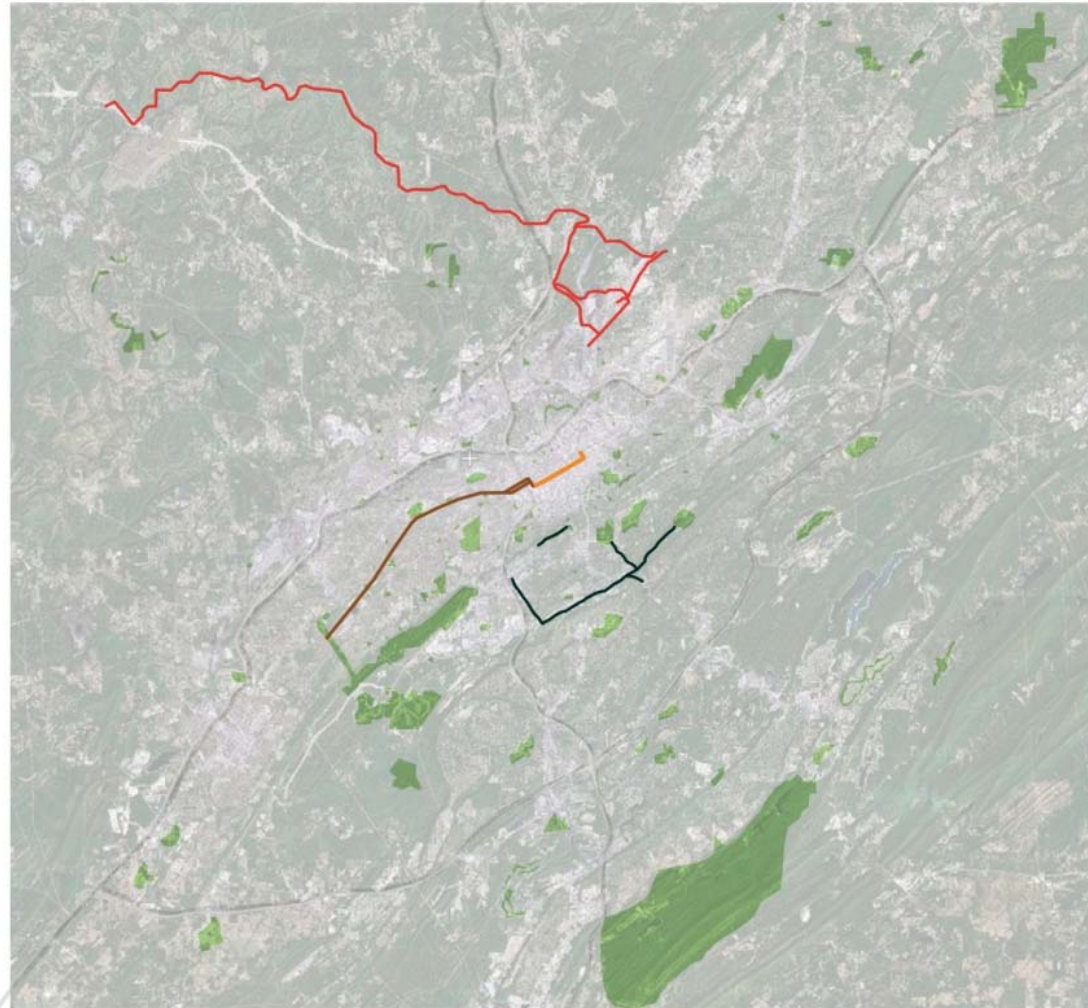
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# Laying the Foundation

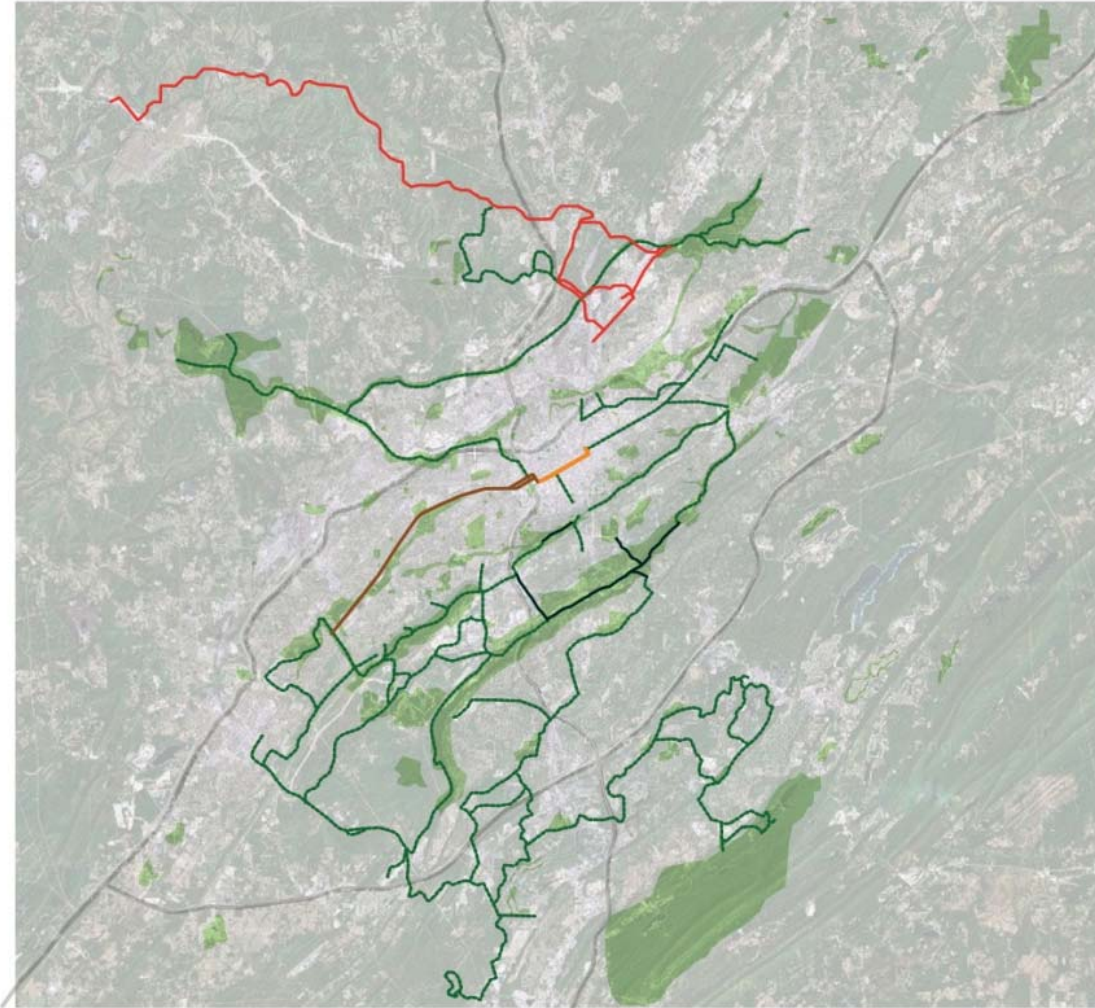


Five Mile Creek Greenway



FRESHWATER  
LAND TRUST

# Laying the Foundation



Potential Regional Connectors



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